

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 COME-00
CEQ-01 IO-13 INT-05 SMI-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 L-03 /083 W
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P R 041706Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6936
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CAMBERRA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SENV, EFIS, IWC-1, BR
SUBJECT: 10-YEAR MORATORIUM ON COMMERCIAL WHALING

REF: STATE 077088

1. EMBASSY SCICOUN PRESENTED USG POSITION TO HEAD OF FONMIN
DIVISION OF SPECIALIZED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHO HANDLES
IWC MATTERS. FONMIN DOES NOT HAVE FIRM POSITION ON MORATORIUM
YET BUT SUBJECT IS ON AGENDA OF APRIL 6 MEETING OF INTER-MINISTERIAL
COMMISSION ON SEA RESOURCES (CIRM), WITH OPPOSING ARGUMENTS TO
BE PRESENTED BY FISHING AGENCY (SUDEPE) AND ENVIRONMENTAL
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SECRETARIAT (SEMA) WHICH WILL PRESENT CONSERVATIONIST VIEWS.
FONMIN SAID IT RELIES PRIMARILY ON SUDEPE, WHOSE CHIEF OF R&D IS
BRAZILIAN COMMISSIONER ON IWC, FOR POLICY ON WHALING ISSUES.

2. SCICOUN CONSULTED DIRECTLY WITH SUDEPE ON QUESTION
AND ELICITED FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A. BRAZIL HARVESTS ESSENTIALLY ONLY MINK WHALES, WITHIN ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS AND WITH SMALL QUOTA (APPROX 800 PER YEAR). HARVEST DOES NOT INCLUDE PREGNANT WHALES OR THOSE WITH YOUNG CALVES SO LITTLE WASTAGE OCCURS. GOB RELIES ON IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR JUDGEMENT OF MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE YIELD (REFERENCE WAS MADE TO SPECIAL MEETING IN SEATTLE TO ASSESS MINK WHALE SITUATION PRIOR TO JUNE IWC MEETING) - IF SCIENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS NEW WORLD QUOTA, BRAZIL WILL ONLY ARGUE FOR ITS FAIR SHARE OF QUOTA.

B. SUDEPE SUPPORTS REGIME OF CONTROLLED HARVESTING AND SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENTS AND BELIEVES MORATORIUM, IF OBSERVED, WOULD RESULT IN LOSS OF INFORMATION ON SUSTAINABLE YIELD.

C. BRAZILIAN HARVESTING IS NOT REALLY "COMMERCIAL" COMPARED TO WHALING NATIONS LIKE JAPAN AND USSR BUT MORE "SUBSISTENCE" FISHING, INDIGENOUS TO ONE COASTAL AREA OF STATE OF PARAIBA IN NORTHEASTERN BRAZIL, WHERE MEAT FROM WHALES IS TRADITIONAL AND IMPORTANT PROTEIN COMPONENT OF LOCAL DIET.

3. COINCIDENTALLY, OPPOSITION TO WHALING BY BRAZIL MADE ITS MOST PROMINENT MANIFESTATION THIS WEEK. UNIVERSITY OF SAO PAULO HOSTED PUBLIC EXPOSITION FROM OCEANOGRAPHIC INSITUTE OF MONACO ON "LIFE OF THE WHALES", WHICH IS BEING USED BY CONSERVATIONISTS FOR ATTACK ON ECONOMIC ARGUMENTS FOR CONTINUATION OF WHALING (ONE SUCH ATTACK WAS MADE IN SENATE LAST YEAR) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND FOR MEETING WITH HEAD OF SEMA (WHO IS WELL KNOWN FOR HIS CONSERVATIONIST VIEWS). JOHNSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Remarks:
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